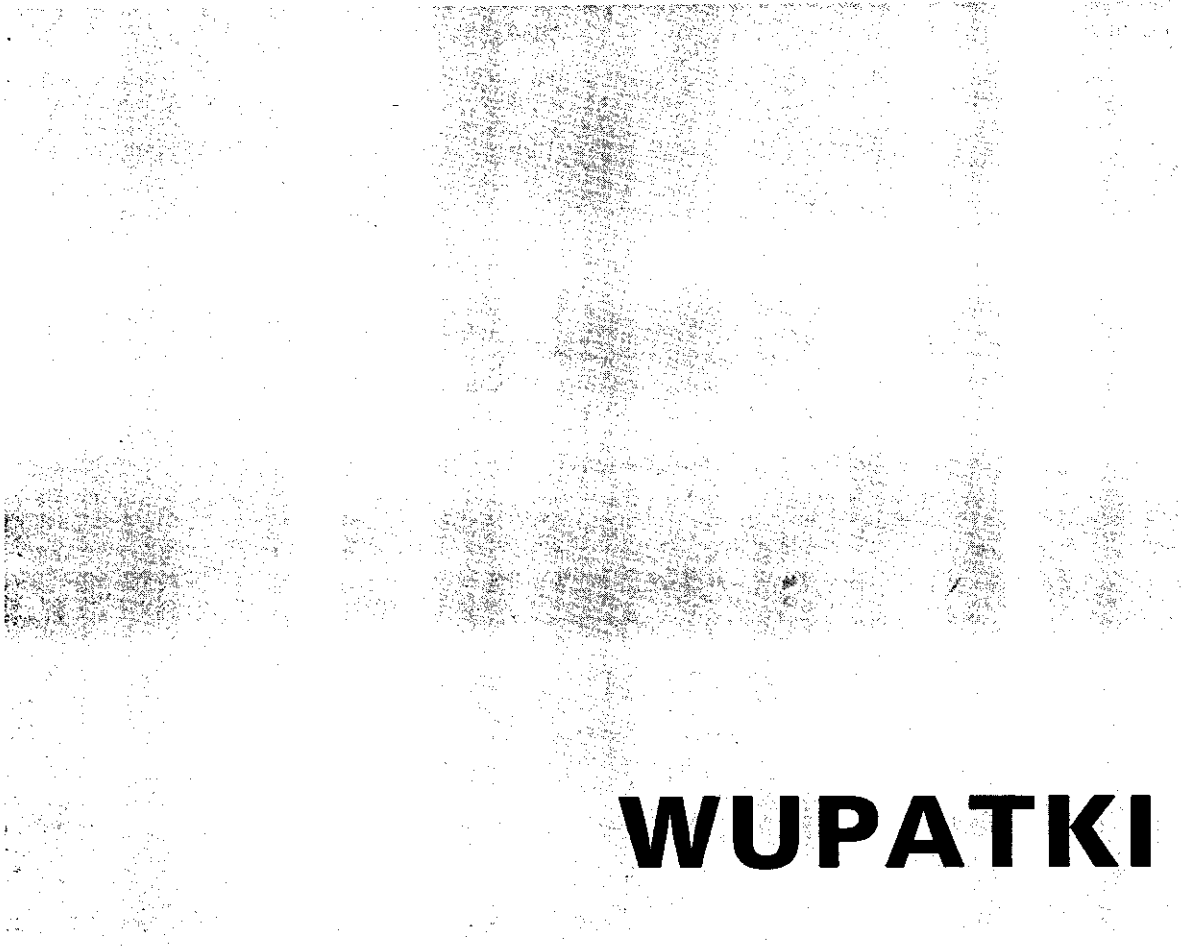


# wilderness recommendation

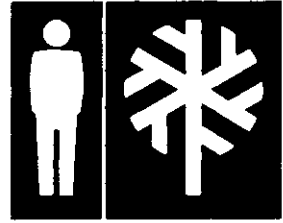


## WUPATKI

NATIONAL MONUMENT • ARIZONA



wilderness recommendation



wupatki  
national monument

october 1971

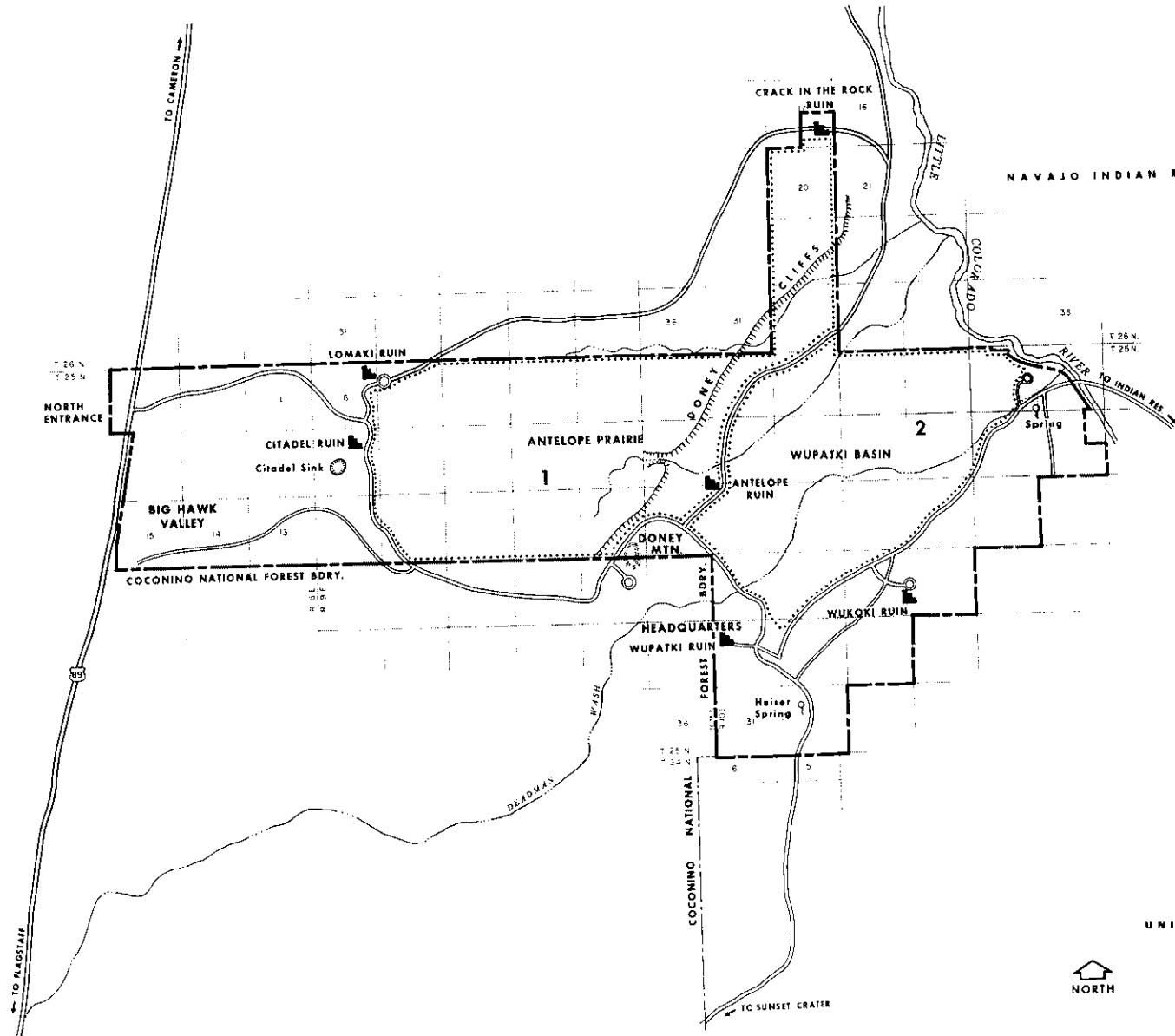
united states department of the interior / national park service

## RECOMMENDATION

1

LANDS IN WUPATKI NATIONAL MONUMENT WERE FOUND UNSUITABLE FOR INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM. THIS IS DUE TO THE EXISTENCE OF LIVESTOCK GRAZING THROUGHOUT THE MONUMENT, AND ALSO TO THE FACT THAT THE MONUMENT IS ESSENTIALLY AN AREA OF PREHISTORIC RUINS AND RELICS, WITH BASICALLY DIFFERENT PURPOSES, USES, AND MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS FROM THOSE OF WILDERNESS.

THIS RECOMMENDATION IS BASED UPON CAREFUL STUDY OF THE MONUMENT, THE VIEWS PRESENTED AT THE PUBLIC HEARINGS, AND WRITTEN RESPONSES CONCERNING THE PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS PROPOSAL DESCRIBED IN THE APPENDED HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT.



# EXHIBIT A

## WILDERNESS STUDY

WUPATKI NATIONAL MONUMENT  
ARIZONA

NO WILDERNESS RECOMMENDED

### LEGEND

- MONUMENT BOUNDARY
- ..... ROADLESS AREA

1 11,500 ACRES

2 7,000 ACRES

TOTAL 18,500 ACRES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



0 1 2 3  
SCALE IN MILES

322 | 20003  
MAY 71 | EPD-WSC

## **SUMMARY OF THE PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS STUDY**

### **LOCATION**

Wupatki National Monument is located in Coconino County in north-central Arizona.

The monument is part of a region lying between extensive high-altitude national forest lands to the southwest and semidesert mesas of the Hopi and Navajo Indian Reservations to the northeast. The latter forms the largest block of Indian tribal lands in the United States.

### **SURROUNDINGS**

Wupatki is bounded by the Navajo Indian Reservation on the east; national forest, public domain, and private lands on the south; and public domain and private lands on the west and north.

Wupatki is connected with Sunset Crater National Monument by a paved road running across 18 miles of cinder-covered hills and through several unusual plant and animal communities in Coconino National Forest.

Wupatki and Sunset Crater lie within 40 miles of Flagstaff, Arizona.

There are forests, high mountain peaks, and deserts within this region. Grand Canyon, 90 miles to the northwest, is the largest park in the region. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and nearby archeological areas encourage additional visitation. Several large national forests extend southwest of Wupatki, from the Flagstaff to the Phoenix areas.

## RESOURCES

Wupatki contains approximately 800 known Indian ruins. Only four have been excavated. The Wupatki Ruin itself is one of the most impressive in northern Arizona. Around Citadel Ruin was another concentration of prehistoric Indians; within 1 square mile there are more than 100 sites, from small earth lodges to large pueblos. The Citadel, as yet unexcavated, was a fortified apartment house, probably one or two stories high, with about 50 rooms.

The monument is primarily archeological in orientation. It is a unique archeological laboratory – and a fragile one. The Wupatki locale has, through time, been a meeting ground of several cultural traditions, and is one of the few areas in the southwestern United States where these phenomena can be studied without difficult logistic and administrative problems. Archeological field studies have been continually conducted in the monument area and nearby for several decades, and may be profitably pursued for many years to come.

Wupatki National Monument has a range of unique geological features, many of which have been important in deciphering the geologic history of northern Arizona. The faults and monocline which form the Doney Cliffs are related to the general uplift that formed the Colorado Plateau and such outstanding features as Grand Canyon. The abandoned river channel west of the Doney Cliffs and the river terraces in Wupatki Basin are records of the history of the Little Colorado and its tributaries in this area. Doney Crater and its related volcanic phenomena give the best

evidence in the area that the volcanism is related to the underlying structure. Studies of the wind holes (blow holes), sinks, and earth cracks have shown that an extensive system of small caves and crevices is present in the limestone around Wupatki.

Antelope Prairie and Wupatki Basin are very different ecological communities. The Wupatki Basin is of ecological value because it represents the southernmost limits of the Great Basin, or Cold Desert. Nowhere in Arizona can one find an expanse of this biotic community as well preserved as the one within Wupatki. Antelope Prairie contains two biotic communities different from those found in Wupatki Basin.

## **VISITOR-USE FACILITIES**

Uniformed personnel are on duty the year round. There are no overnight accommodations in the monument, but a Forest Service campground is located opposite the Sunset Crater Visitor Center. Roads and pathways have been provided to principal points. There are self-guiding trails, with guidebooks keyed to posted numbers.

Travel to Wupatki is increasing at a rate of approximately 10 percent each year and will soon exceed 150,000 visitors annually.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS STUDY**

No wilderness is proposed at Wupatki National Monument. The non-wilderness concept was proposed because of the existence of livestock grazing throughout the monument, and also because the monument is essentially an area of prehistoric ruins and relics, with basically different purposes, uses, and management concepts from those of wilderness.

Two roadless areas of 5000 acres or more were studied. One consisting of 11,500 acres lies above Doney Cliffs in an area called Antelope Prairie. The second, consisting of about 7000 acres, lies in Wupatki Basin. They are divided by a primitive road that crosses Wupatki Basin below Doney Cliffs.

## CONCLUSIONS

As required by the Wilderness Act, a public hearing was held on the preliminary wilderness study at Flagstaff, Arizona, on December 14, 1970. Notice of the public hearing appeared in the *Federal Register* on October 15, and in local newspapers on October 15. The hearing was attended by 129 persons, 27 of whom made oral statements. A total of 204 letters was received. Of the agencies, private organizations, and individuals testifying or submitting written views, three of the 10 public agencies, one of the 14 organizations, and five of the 207 individuals supported the preliminary finding of nonsuitability for wilderness designation. Twelve of the 14 organizations and 184 of the 207 individuals favored designation of 19,000 acres as wilderness. One organization and two individuals favored wilderness of more than 19,000 acres.

The alternative proposals and views were carefully studied, and management requirements were reconsidered. This restudy reaffirms the original finding that the area is not suitable for management and use as wilderness.

The area was set aside as a national monument to preserve the works of man — structures, farming areas, and relics of a community that consisted of several thousand inhabitants representing the Sinagua, Anasazi, Cohonina, and Hohokam cultures. As a result of the commingling and attendant exchange of



ideas that followed, a new culture pattern developed here and dominated the region for 250 years. While a complete archeological survey has not been made, there are about 800 known ruins and many smaller sites. One area a mile square, for example, has been inventoried and found to contain more than 100 sites. The earlier occupation ended about A.D. 1225, but Indians today still graze their sheep in a portion of the monument. The grazing of small bands of sheep by Indian families is a continuing part of the culture in this section of Arizona and is in harmony with the historic scene. Also, resulting from the acquiring of a part of the monument, the CO Bar Cattle Company has a permit to graze 600 head of cattle on 16,000 acres of the monument lying generally west of the Doney Cliffs escarpment.

In managing the monument, a major objective is to carry out research to increase knowledge of the culture that evolved here and to make this knowledge available to the public, primarily by means of onsite exhibits. All of these activities — research and stabilization, provision of access, interpretation, and protection of the structures and sites — require the use of mechanical and motorized equipment, limited but essential road construction, interpretive devices, as well as trails and other facilities, to meet the needs of concentrated visitation and the protection of the ruins, relics, and sites. Future discoveries may indicate necessary changes in the present roads and trail system to make important sites accessible and to better preserve either known or newly discovered resources.

In summation, existing grazing utilization and fulfillment of the basic purpose of the monument in preserving, making accessible, and interpreting the culture and works of man in this historic Indian community preclude the management of this area as wilderness. Therefore, the area is not recommended for designation as wilderness.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George B. Hartson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "H".

Director, National Park Service



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

SEP 17 1971

Dear Mr. President:

Section 3(c) of the Wilderness Act (approved September 3, 1964, 78 Stat. 890, 892) directs the Secretary of the Interior to review every roadless area of 5,000 contiguous acres or more in the national parks, monuments, and other units of the National Park System, and every such area of, and every roadless island within, the national wildlife refuges and game ranges under his jurisdiction, and to report to the President his recommendation as to the suitability or nonsuitability of each area for preservation as wilderness.

Review has been completed of 18,500 acres of roadless areas within Wupatki National Monument, Arizona. Based on that review, I have concluded that these areas are not suitable for designation as wilderness by the Congress. Enclosed is a report in support of that conclusion. Also enclosed are suggested drafts of letters to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the President of the Senate advising the Congress of the results of this review.

The primary purpose of Wupatki National Monument is to preserve the ruins and relics of prehistoric man and his works. There is a continuing need for archeological research and excavations at the hundreds of archeological sites found in the monument, and such activity will involve the use of mechanical equipment within the roadless areas. The roadless area lands are also grazed by livestock under permit. Since the concepts of purpose, use and management of this national monument are basically different from those of wilderness lands, we have concluded that none of the tracts within the roadless areas studied is suitable for wilderness designation.

Sincerely yours,

*Rogers C. Morton*  
Secretary of the Interior

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Enclosures